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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

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National Intelligence Council

NIC #01015-84
13 February 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, National Intelligence Council
FROM: Assistant National Intelligence Officer for East Asia
SUBJECT: Alternate Outcomes in the Philippines: A Proposal

1. During the past four months we have published two SNIEs on the Philippines, one dealing with Aquino's assassination and the other one assessing prospects for stability in the Philippines. Simultaneously, the financial situation in the Philippines has deteriorated, the opposition to Marcos is gathering strength, albeit slowly, and the New People's Army is continuing to expand its bases for operation throughout the countryside.

2. While none of these individually is likely to destabilize the Philippines, the prospects for continued downward slide of the political situation there are great. Our two SNIEs and the daily reporting of OEA, I believe, are accurately tracking conditions in the Philippines. However, what we have not provided to the decision-maker downtown are alternative outcomes to this situation.

3. Toward this end, I propose publishing a NICM that will summarize our views of how things are likely to go, and will contain as its second half a think-piece by an outside contractor laying out the scenarios and likelihoods of other possible outcomes. The person I would like to have do this is [redacted] a long-time student and expert on Southeast Asian affairs, particularly the Philippines.

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4. I recommend we hire [redacted] contract, not to exceed [redacted] will produce a 10-page double-spaced think-piece setting out alternative outcomes for succession in the Philippines, including prospects for the New People's Army and opposition party unification. If you agree, we will proceed with this course of action, with an eye towards producing a NICM around mid-March 1984.

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